

Appl. No. 10/764,903
Amdt. dated June 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for assisting a user in getting into and out of sitting and prone positions on a bed, the device comprising;

a planar base member configured to fit between the mattress and box spring of the bed;

a receiving portion having a coupling device;

an adjustable handle, including a plurality of apertures arrayed in serial fashion that are configured to correspond to the coupling device, such that a vertical ~~disposition~~ height of the adjustable handle relative to the base member is adjustable by selectively inserting the receiving portion into the adjustable handle so that the coupling device fits into one of the apertures; and

a connector designed to connect the receiving portion to the base member, comprising a C-shaped bracket, which bracket ~~encompasses~~ receives the an outer edge of the planar base member.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The device according to claim 1, wherein the C-shaped bracket includes apertures for receiving bolts, which also pass through corresponding apertures in the base member.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An assistance device for assisting a user in getting into and out of various body positions on a piece of furniture comprising:

a base having a horizontal and vertical dimension configured to fit under a cushion-type portion of the furniture;

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at least one leg having a first end rotatably attached and configured to rotate along a plane that is substantially perpendicular to the horizontal dimension of the base;
a handle rotatably coupled to a second end of the at least one leg; and
a locking device functionally coupled to the at least one leg, and configured to maintain the at least one leg in a fixed vertical position; wherein the locking device is located on the handle and engages the leg to maintain the leg in the vertical position.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The assistance device of claim [[4]] 3, wherein the handle maintains a horizontal orientation to the base while being pivoted.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An assistance device for assisting a user in getting into and out of various body positions on a piece of furniture comprising:

a U-shaped base having a horizontal and vertical dimension configured to fit under a cushion-type portion of the furniture, the U-shaped base having a first and second end facing a same direction;

an first and second attachment bracket coupled to the first and second end of the base respectively;

a U-shaped handle having a first and second handle end respectively coupled to the first and second brackets to enable the handle to maintain a vertical position with respect to the base while in a locked position, and to [[be]] maintain a folded position with the handle being parallel to the base while in an unlocked position, wherein the U-shaped handle is coupled to the first and second brackets through a fixed axle and a removable anchor, such that the removable anchor is removed when the handle is in the unlocked position. ~~the folded position, adjacent legs of the U-shaped base and the U-shaped handle are in places substantially perpendicular to the planes of the U-shaped base and U-shaped handle.~~

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Claim 7 (original): The assistance device of claim 6, wherein the base is formed of a tubular member.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The assistance device of claim 6, wherein the first and second brackets each comprise an axle coupled to the bracket and respective first and second ends of the handle to allow the dandle to rotate about the handle.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The assistance device of claim 8, wherein the first and second brackets each comprise a dislocatable portion configured to retain the handle in the vertical position when coupled to both the handle and first and second brackets, but allows for the folded position of the handle when the dislocatable portion is dislocated from connecting to both the first and second bracket and the handle.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The assistance device of claim 6, further comprising a stabilizing cross member attached near the first end and second end of the U-shaped base.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The assistance device of claim 6, wherein the U-shaped base and the U-shaped handle are configured to be substantially co-linear when in the folded position.

Claim 12 (new): An assistance device for assisting a user in getting into and out of various positions on a piece of furniture, comprising:

- a base having dimensions configured to fit under a cushion-type portion of the furniture;

- a first bracket which receives an outer edge of the base;

- a second bracket coupled to the first bracket; and

- a pivoting handle having first and second ends, the second end coupled to the second bracket through an axle and a removable retaining pin such that the handle is in a vertical position substantially perpendicular relative to the base, wherein the handle is configured to pivot

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about the axle to a reclined position approximately parallel to the base when the retaining pin is removed.

Claim 13 (new): The assistance device of claim 12, wherein the base is a planar member.

Claim 14 (new): The assistance device of claim 12, wherein the first and second brackets are U-shaped members.

Claim 15 (new): The assistance device of claim 14, wherein the second bracket is coupled substantially perpendicular to the first bracket.

Claim 16 (new): The assistance device of claim 15, wherein the U-shaped members each have a base and two ends facing a same direction, such that the base of the second bracket is coupled to the base of the first bracket.

Claim 17 (new): The assistance device of claim 12, further comprising a strap having a first end and a second end, the first end attached to the base and the second end having a hook that is configured to attach to a frame or other rigid portion of the furniture.

Claim 18 (new): An assistance device for assisting a user in getting into and out of various positions on a piece of furniture, comprising:

- a base having dimensions configured to fit under a cushion-type portion of furniture;

- a first bracket coupled to the base;

- a second bracket coupled to the base; and

- a handle having a first and second end, each respectively coupled to the first and second brackets through a fixed axle and a removable anchor to enable the handle to maintain an orthogonal position with respect to the base, wherein the handle is capable of pivoting about each fixed axle to a folded position when each removable anchor is removed.

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Claim 19 (new): The assistance device of claim 18, further comprising a strap having a first end and a second end, the first end attached to the base and the second end configured to attach to a frame or other rigid portion of the furniture.

Claim 20 (new): The assistance device of claim 18, wherein the handle is substantially parallel to the base in the folded position.